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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 8 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place during March 1997.

1 March 1997

At 1040 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Western Bekaa area, focusing on Mashgharah, Ayn al-Tinah, Maydun, Zillaya and Qilya, without carrying out any attacks.

At 0835 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills in two successive waves.

3 March 1997

At 2120 hours the environs of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under artillery fire from Israeli positions in the border strip.

5 March 1997

At 1320 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitude.

7 March 1997

At 1115 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at high altitude.

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Jba' and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Jabal Safi highlands came under Israeli artillery fire.

8 March 1997

At 0615 hours the hills to the south of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah, the Jabal Abi Rashid highlands, the Jabbur pool and outlying areas of Qilya, Zillaya and Libbaya in Western Bekaa district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1140 hours outlying areas of Dallafah, Qilya, Zillaya and Libbaya came under artillery fire from Israeli positions.

At 1600 hours outlying areas of Jba', Arabsalim and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by low-altitude overflights of the area by Israeli warplanes. They also attacked outlying areas of Jba', in two waves, and fired two air-to-surface missiles. Najwa Husayn Khafajah and Husayn Mustafa Khafajah were hurt in the bombardment.

9 March 1997

At 1400 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Luwayzah, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1630 hours the hills to the south of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah and the Jabal Ra'id highlands came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1720 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Jabal Ayn al-Tinah, firing four air-to-surface missiles in an attack that lasted some seven minutes. Israeli warplanes also overflew Sidon at medium altitude.

10 March 1997

At 1000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at high altitude.

At 1400 hours the north-western section of Jarju' received bursts of sniper fire from Israeli positions at Tallat Sajd, and the home of Hatim Muhammad al-Shami was hit.

At 1400 hours an explosive charge that had been placed inside a vehicle exploded on the Markaba-Hula road in the Bi'r al-Maslibat locality, Marj Uyun district. The vehicle was destroyed and damage was caused to the home of Husayn Shahrur.

At 1425 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Tulin, Sawwanah, Frun and Ghanduriyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

11 March 1997

At 2150 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Harat al-Na'imah and Damur hills and were opposed by ground-based anti-aircraft batteries belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 2210 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at high altitude.

12 March 1997

At 0930 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim and Jarju', the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along Nab' al-Tasah came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights of the Nabatiyah area by Israeli warplanes.

At 1230 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Jba' and Ayn Bu Siwar, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Zahrani River in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1230 hours there were clashes between members of the Lebanese national resistance and Israeli and Lahad forces in the Jabal al-Rayhan area, Jazzin district, in which weapons of all types were used.

14 March 1997

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Tulin, Qabrikha, Sawwanah, Majdal Silm, Shaqra, Bra'shit, Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haris, Kafra and Yatar came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1530 hours there were clashes between members of the Lebanese national resistance and Israeli and Lahad forces in the Jabal al-Rayhan area, Jazzin district, in which weapons of all types were used. They stopped at 1700 hours.

At 1645 hours outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jarju' and areas along the Zahrani River came under artillery fire from Israeli positions inside the border strip.

16 March 1997

At 2200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at low altitude.

17 March 1997

At 0600 hours outlying areas of Majdal Zun came under Israeli artillery fire.

19 March 1997

At 2130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at low altitude. They also overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude, carrying out mock attacks and dropping heat balloons.

20 March 1997

At 0900 hours Israeli forces entered the town of Arnun in Nabatiyah district. They arrested a number of residents and took them to an unknown destination. They subsequently released four of them after interrogation, and three others remain in detention.

At 0915 hours four Israeli warplanes attacked the Nahr al-Asi locality near Ayn al-Zarqa' in Baalbek district. They also attacked the Nahr al-Asi - Hirmil area, causing material damage but leaving no casualties.

At 1820 hours outlying areas of Qilya, Libbaya and Zillaya in Western Bekaa district came under Israeli artillery fire.

22 March 1997

At 1400 hours there was an explosion in the home of Kamil Nimr Abu Samra in Ayshiyah and he was killed.

25 March 1997

At 1930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitude and carried out a number of mock attacks over Jba' and Arabsalim and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills.

At 2210 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps.

At 2220 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Sa'diyat coast, Damur and Na'imah.

26 March 1997

At 1033 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Baalbek. They also overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude and, at 1330 hours, they overflew Tyre.

27 March 1997

At 0530 hours the environs of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa near the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

30 March 1997

At 1100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabatiyah at high altitude. At 1400 hours they overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitude, carrying out mock attacks. This was accompanied by an Israeli artillery bombardment of outlying areas of Jarju' and Arabsalim and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills.

31 March 1997

At 1110 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitude.

At 1120 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabatiyah at medium altitude and then overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitude.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have left a number of casualties and have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative